

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mail system configured to process postage evidence on a mail piece, the mail system comprising:

a handling system configured to receive the mail piece, scan the postage evidence for visible marks and non-visible marks to read visible mark information indicated by the visible marks and non-visible mark information indicated by the non-visible marks, and transfer the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information; and

a processing system coupled to the handling system and configured to process the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information to generate postage information for the mail piece;

wherein the handling system is further configured to scan the non-visible marks using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light, and to process information in the non-visible marks to validate information in the visible marks[.]; and

wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is further configured to process the non-visible mark information and use the non-visible mark information in combination with the information in the visible mark information to validate the postage evidence.

5. (Original) The mail system of claim 4 wherein the non-visible mark information comprises a key to validate the information in the visible mark information.

6. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is further configured to process the non-visible mark information and the visible mark information using a checksum algorithm.

7. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the visible marks and the nonvisible marks comprise a bar code.

8. (Original) The mail system of claim 7 wherein the visible marks and the nonvisible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

9. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the postage information includes a postage amount.

10. (Original) The mail system of claim 9 wherein the postage information includes a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

11. (Previously presented) A method for processing postage evidence on a mail piece, the method comprising:

receiving the mail piece;

scanning the postage evidence for visible marks and non-visible marks to read visible mark information indicated by the visible marks and non-visible mark information indicated by the non-visible marks, wherein the non-visible marks are scanned using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light, and wherein the nonvisible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks; and

processing the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information to generate postage information for the mail piece.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising processing the nonvisible mark information to validate the postage evidence.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the non-visible mark information comprises a key to the visible mark information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising processing the nonvisible mark information and the visible mark information using a checksum algorithm.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the visible marks and the nonvisible marks comprise a bar code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the visible marks and the nonvisible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the postage information includes a postage amount.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the postage information includes a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

21-44. (Canceled)